



# NEWS



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## Fatal crash shuts down University Parkway and Kendall Drive in San Bernardino

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: December 6, 2017 at 7:35 am

San Bernardino police have closed University Parkway and Kendall Drive as they investigate a fatal crash at the intersection Wednesday morning.

The crash was reported just after 1 a.m., according to Eileen Hards, spokeswoman for the police department. Details of the single-vehicle crash were not immediately clear, but the initial police investigation shows authorities are looking into whether the 20-year-old driver was impaired at the time of the crash



First responders work the scene of a crash at the intersection of University Pkwy. and Kendall Dr. in San Bernardino on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017. The driver was listed in serious condition. The passenger died at the scene. (Stan Lim, San Bernardino Sun/SCNG)

“We believe alcohol may have been a factor,” said Lt. Mike Madden.

The passenger was killed. The driver was hospitalized and was last listed in serious condition, officials said. The identity of the man killed was not released as of 8:30 a.m.

Police say they believe the men were both students at Cal State San Bernardino.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/06/crash-shuts-down-university-parkway-and-kendall-drive-in-san-bernardino/>

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## Fires spark evacuations, road closures along I-215, I-15

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 6, 7:37 a.m.



[Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department]

Firefighters had their hands full when a trio of fast-moving fires erupted in the northern San Bernardino and Devore areas Tuesday afternoon, sparking evacuations and road closures.

All evacuations of San Bernardino-area homes due to the 100-acre Little Mountain Fire, which began near University Parkway, were lifted as of 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to the San Bernardino Police Department.

Interstate 215 between Interstate 210 and Interstate 15 was completely shut down when the blaze began to spread just after 12:30 p.m. Spurred by strong winds, the blaze burned through 25 acres in 10 minutes and was reported to be at 100 acres by 3 p.m.

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said firefighters were still actively fighting the blaze, which remained at 100 acres as of 6:30 p.m. with zero containment.

“We expect containment numbers to increase over the night,” Sherwin said. “The winds have subsided, but we know there will be an uptick tonight, so we’re trying to work on it as much as we can before the weather reasserts itself.”

Sherwin said two civilians reported burn injuries shortly after the fire erupted. They’re classified as being in critical condition, Sherwin said, and were taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment. No other injuries have been reported.

As firefighters responded, a second blaze, dubbed the Meyers Fire, began to spark in a wash area near Devore. A tweet from the San Bernardino National Forest Service said the fire was also estimated to be over 20 acres with a “rapid rate of spread.”

As of 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, CalFire reported on Twitter that the Meyers Fire had grown to 34 acres, but firefighters had reached 50 percent containment. Sherwin said one structure was lost due to the blaze, but no injuries were reported.

Firefighters and San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department officials then found themselves scrambling when another fire began on southbound I-15 just south of Glen Helen Parkway, sparked by a tractor-trailer fire in the area.

A tweet from Lt. Mitch Dattilo, who heads the Sheriff's Department Aviation Division, said the trailer — loaded with rolls of paper — separated from the truck and went into the vegetation, starting a blaze there.

I-215 was shut down in both directions as the fires raged, but Caltrans reported that the northbound I-215 lanes at University Parkway were open as of 4:30 p.m., but the southbound lanes remained closed.

A hard closure was put in place on southbound I-15 at Glen Helen Parkway, due to the truck fire, but the northbound I-15 lanes were open as of 3:30 p.m. Caltrans reported at 4:30 p.m. that the No. 1 southbound I-15 lane was open.

The duration of all other closures was unknown and traffic was reported to be heavily backed up Tuesday evening.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171205/fires-spark-evacuations-road-closures-along-i-215-i-15>

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## **Little Mountain fire in San Bernardino is 50 percent contained; firefighters fear tonight's winds**

**Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun**

Posted: December 6, 2017 at 6:16 am

The Little Mountain Fire was 50 percent contained Wednesday morning and San Bernardino County firefighters are hoping to get a better handle on the 100-acre fire before the Santa Ana winds pick up again Wednesday evening into Thursday morning, officials said.

According to National Weather Service officials, 25- to 35-mph wind gusts are forecast to return to the Southland on Wednesday night through Thursday. However, wind-prone places like the nearby Cajon Pass could get isolated gusts of 65 to 90 mph, according to a high-wind warning.

There were still active areas in the fire Wednesday morning, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the fire department; however, the dark smoke visible most of Tuesday is gone.

After several white-knuckle moments of flames coming uncomfortably close to homes in the Little Mountain neighborhood of San Bernardino on Tuesday, firefighters managed to push back the fire Tuesday evening and overnight.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/12/06/firefighters-hope-to-increase-containment-on-little-mountain-fire-in-san-bernardino-before-winds-pick-up-again/>

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## **Wildfires Burn Homes, Close Freeways in Southern California**

**Steve Rubenstein, Sophie Haigney, Peter Fimrite and Jill Tucker, Tribune News Service**

Posted: December 6, 2017

Ferocious Santa Ana winds blew flames across bone-dry grasslands and into neighborhoods, leveling at least 180 structures and forcing tens of thousands to flee, while ensuring that the state's worst fire season on record would push well into the holidays.

The Thomas Fire, which broke out around 6:30 p.m. Monday in the foothills near Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula and remained out of control on Tuesday night, swept west and devoured rows of homes, two apartment buildings and a private psychiatric hospital as it raced over grasslands into communities.

### White House Disaster Aid Request Leaves Out Fire-Scorched California Wildfire Triggers Evacuations and Power Outages in California

It was the worst of four fires that by late Tuesday had burned more than 66,000 acres in Southern California, prompting Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency in Ventura County as Bay Area fire departments sent reinforcements south.

"The prospects for containment are not good," said Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen at a news conference. "Really, Mother Nature is going to decide."

As neighborhoods turned into scenes of vast ruin and freeways closed down, California got a frightening replay of the October infernos in Wine Country that killed 44 people, destroyed 8,900 structures and, like the Thomas Fire, were driven by nighttime windstorms that blasted flames from more rugged areas into communities built along the edge of the wildland.

By Tuesday morning, the Thomas Fire had burned into Ventura, a city of more than 105,000 residents located about 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles on Highway 101. Vista del Mar Hospital, a private psychiatric facility, burned to the ground after its residents and workers were evacuated, as did 150 buildings, including the pair of apartment complexes.

More than 1,000 firefighters worked through the night protecting buildings, including City Hall, where the flames reached the parking lot, destroyed a couple of cars and left an adjacent hillside blackened and smoldering.

"It seemed like a lava flow coming down toward the city," said Vince Tovey, an electrical inspector for Ventura.

A firefighter was injured when he was struck by a vehicle during the response to the blaze, said the Ventura County Fire Department. Some 27,000 people were under mandatory evacuation in Ventura, Santa Paula and Ojai, and at least 7,000 more homes were evacuated between Santa Paula and Ventura, a distance of more than 12 miles, officials said. Hundreds of thousands of people lost power.

In issuing his emergency proclamation to secure state and federal disaster resources, Brown cited the destruction, the threats to critical infrastructure and the high winds.

"This fire is very dangerous and spreading rapidly, but we'll continue to attack it with all we've got," Brown said. "It's critical residents stay ready and evacuate immediately if told to do so."

Evacuee Lorie Denis, 56, stared at the devastation late Tuesday morning as firefighters poured water on the blackened hull of the Harbor View Apartments in the foothills above downtown Ventura.

She had been awakened by a neighbor's phone call and had time to grab a few possessions from a safe -- among them her late husband's wedding ring and watch -- as well as her dog, Carson. She tried to save her neighbor's two cats but could find only one before a neighbor screamed for her to leave.

"I thought we were done," she said. "It was raining fire."

Judy Terry, 69, was getting ready for bed Monday night when she got an alert as well as a phone call from her landlord telling her to leave. She got dressed, grabbed her dog, Sweetie, and corralled neighbors into her car for a drive through heavy smoke to the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

"All I had time to do was get up, get dressed and leave and help others," said Terry, who with more than 600 others spent the night on a Red Cross cot in what is normally a livestock center, with her Maltese-poodle mix pup by her side.

As the fire crept near Ventura's downtown, the wind howled and pieces of palm trees and tumbleweeds blew through the streets as thick brown smoke blanketed the region. Many people wore masks as they walked through the area.

Burning as well was the Creek Fire in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, which started at 3:42 a.m. Tuesday in the Angeles National Forest and spread to more than 11,000 acres. At least 30 homes in Sylmar and Lakeview Terrace were destroyed, thousands of others were evacuated, and two firefighters were injured.

The Little Mountain Fire broke out about 12:28 p.m. Tuesday on a hill behind a strip mall south of California State University San Bernardino, and spread to 100 acres by the afternoon. The fire injured two people, one critically, and forced closure of northbound Interstate 215, said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The Rye Fire erupted just before 10 a.m. Tuesday about 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles, shutting down Interstate 5 in both directions near Santa Clarita. The fire broke out in the Rye Canyon Loop and grew to 5,000 acres by Tuesday afternoon. It was 5 percent contained, while the other fires had no containment. Each of the fires was pushed by dry Santa Ana winds, with gusts up to 60 mph. The winds, which originate inland, are similar to the Diablo winds that fueled the wildfires in Northern California. Fire officials said the weather was making it difficult for aircraft and helicopters to fight the blazes.

"This is mirroring the Tubbs Fire we had to deal with in Northern California," said Scott McLean, a deputy chief for the state's Cal Fire agency. "We're dealing with extreme wind conditions and weather that is extremely dry and (difficult) topography. This is not flat land, and some areas are inaccessible to get equipment to."

The Santa Ana winds, which typically occur in the fall, could last as long as 10 days, forecasters said. "They've died down slightly, but they're going to increase again (Tuesday) evening, so it's kind of like a seesaw," McLean said. "This just shows us that there is no fire season anymore. It's December. We have fires all year round now."

Firefighters in Southern California are used to clusters of wind-driven fires in the fall. In October 2003, Santa Ana winds fed the ruinous Cedar Fire in San Diego County, which consumed 2,820 structures, and the Old Fire, in San Bernardino County, which wiped out 1,003 buildings.

But fires spread by extreme offshore gusts are rare this time of year -- even in Southern California, which is typically warmer and drier during the winter than the rest of the state. Cal Fire anticipated the danger, maintaining staffing on 148 engines and keeping reserve firefighters on duty.

"We continue to see more and more extreme fires and extreme weather events," said Chief Ken Pimlott, the Cal Fire director. "The challenges of our changing climate are real. Historically, winter was a time we could regroup, but spending the holiday season on the fire lines is likely to become more the norm."

Ventura County has been exceedingly dry in recent months. The area has received 0.13 of an inch of rain since July 1, said the National Weather Service.

"We had rains last winter that caused all the brush and everything to grow, and throughout the summer they dried out," said Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Joey Marron. "Now with these winds, any little spark is fuel."

A San Francisco Fire Department strike team of 22 firefighters rushed to the Thomas Fire on five engines Tuesday. Fire crews from Marin and Alameda counties, Oakland, Fremont and Hayward were also being sent.

The winds continued to blow Tuesday as Tovey, the city of Ventura electrical inspector, patrolled the perimeter of the Thomas Fire in his city vehicle, turning back residents trying to reach their homes.

"One of the downsides living in California," he said of the wildfire danger. "There aren't many, but this is one of them."

<http://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/tns-ventura-wildfire-california.html>

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## **Firefighters battle house fire in Helendale Tuesday night**

**VVNG STAFF, Victor Valley News**

Posted: December 6, 2017, 1:55 p.m.

HELENDALE, Calif. (VVNG.com) – San Bernardino County Firefighters are battling a residential structure fire in Helendale Tuesday night.

Just before 11:30 pm, dispatch received multiple reports of a house fire in the 19000 block of Wagon Wheel Trail in the community of Helendale.

When fire crews arrived they located a well involved two-story structure with possible exposure to a near-by mobile home.

Scanner traffic reported all occupants exited the home and no injuries have been reported. A fire investigator will respond to the incident and help to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-battle-house-fire-helendale-tuesday-night/>

## Strong winds cause trucks to overturn on 210 Freeway in Fontana on Dec. 5

Mike Myers, Fontan Herald News

Posted: Tuesday, December 6, 2017 10:12 am, Wed Dec 6, 2017.



This was one of two trucks that overturned on the 210 Freeway in Fontana due to the strong winds. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

Strong winds caused a truck to be overturned on the westbound 210 Freeway on the morning of Dec. 5, resulting in a major traffic jam in northern Fontana.

At 7:03 a.m., the driver of the truck was attempting to transition to the northbound Interstate 15 Freeway in Fontana but was blown over and blocked several lanes.

A California Highway Patrol officer said the driver was trapped in the cab and had to be extricated.

----- ALSO, an accident involving a truck occurred on Dec. 4 at about 10 p.m. on the eastbound 210 Freeway west of Cherry Avenue. The truck was blown off the freeway and landed on its side, with the trailer over the embankment. A CHP officer said the driver was out of the truck and not injured when he got there.

Overall, at least five trucks overturned because of the winds on the freeways in the Fontana/Rancho Cucamonga/Rialto area on Dec. 5, according to Eric Sherwin of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

----- IN ADDITION, on the afternoon of Dec. 5, a 34-acre fire broke out in the Cajon Pass near Glen Helen Regional Park. By midnight, the fire had been completely contained.

The strong winds are expected to continue until Friday, Dec. 8, according to the National Weather Service. A red flag warning and high wind warning remain in effect in Fontana.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-strong-winds-cause-trucks-to-overturn-on-freeway-in/article\\_008988a0-d9df-11e7-becd-bf97918cf194.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-strong-winds-cause-trucks-to-overturn-on-freeway-in/article_008988a0-d9df-11e7-becd-bf97918cf194.html)

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## 3 burned in wind-driven fire that's growing in San Bernardino County, officials say

Joseph Serna and Alejandra Reyes-Velarde, LA Times

Posted: December 5, 2017, 7:55 p.m.

A fire that broke out in San Bernardino County on Tuesday afternoon burned three people and triggered mandatory evacuations, authorities said.

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The wind-driven Little Mountain fire has burned at least 100 acres, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. By Tuesday night, all evacuations were lifted, but Little Mountain was still closed to traffic, authorities said.

The blaze was initially reported as a vegetation fire near University Parkway and Varsity Avenue about 12:30 p.m.

Three people were taken to a hospital with burns, officials said. Mandatory evacuations were ordered about 1:45 p.m. for residents east of Little Mountain Drive and north of West Edgehill Road, the department said. An evacuation center was set up at Marshall Elementary School in San Bernardino.

The fire forced an eight-mile stretch of the 215 Freeway between the 210 and 15 freeways to close Tuesday afternoon, the California Highway Patrol said. The blaze is among several that burned across Southern California on Tuesday amid powerful Santa Ana winds.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-little-mountain-fire-20171205-story.html>

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## **Evacuations lifted for 100-acre Little Mountain area fire in San Bernardino**

Staff, ABC 7

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 07:25 p.m.

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) --

The wind-driven fire that erupted in the Little Mountain area of San Bernardino exploded to 100 acres with zero percent containment Tuesday afternoon, according to **San Bernardino County** fire officials.

The blaze triggered evacuations and calls for ambulances after three people were injured, officials said.

The fire was located near University Parkway and W. Varsity Avenue. Fire officials said the blaze spread rapidly and threatened structures.

The northbound 215 Freeway at Little Mountain Drive from 33rd Street to Kendall Drive was closed and evacuations were ordered for a neighborhood north of Shandin Hills Golf Course.

Mandatory evacuations were ordered for Bond Street in San Bernardino and for homes east of Little Mountain Drive and north of Edgehill Road.

By 6:30 p.m., authorities said all evacuation orders were lifted, but the area remain closed to traffic.

The fire was being fueled by 30-35 mph Santa Ana winds.

The three injured people were burned, officials said. There was no immediate word on their condition, but they are expected to survive.

<http://abc7.com/25-acre-fire-triggers-evacuations-in-san-bernardino/2742743/>

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## **Residents, pets saved after fire in Phelan home quickly doused**

**Paola Baker, Daily Press**  
Posted Dec 5, 2017, 4:23p.m.



San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters battled a blaze at a home in Phelan Tuesday afternoon. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**PHELAN** — Firefighters contained a blaze that burned through an attic here Tuesday afternoon, saving the home's residents and pets from injury.

Reported at noon Tuesday, San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to reports of a fire alarm at a home in the 4600 block of Shady Drive, near Monte Vista and Palmdale roads.

The first responding units arrived and found a fire blazing in the home's attic, according to County Fire Battalion Chief Dave Wetzel.

Fire crews aggressively battled the flames while making sure the home's four residents and eight dogs were safe. The fire was under control at 12:53 p.m., Wetzel said.

Several County Fire resources, including five engines, a fire investigator and a battalion chief, were dispatched to battle the blaze. A unit from CalFire was also on hand for assistance. The family was displaced due to the fire, Wetzel said, but were able to find a place to stay for the night.

It's believed the blaze was sparked by a lit candle left inside the room, according to the County Fire investigator on scene, but the blaze remains under investigation. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171205/residents-pets-saved-after-fire-in-phelan-home-quickly-doused>

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## **BREAKING: 215 Freeway closed due to fast-moving brush fire**

**VVNG STAFF, Victor Valley News**  
Posted: December 5, 2017, 1:55 p.m.

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (VVNG.com)** – A fast-moving, wind-driven fire has prompted officials to shut down the 215 freeway in San Bernardino.

At about 12:40 pm, dispatch received multiple reports of a brush fire near University Parkway and west Varsity Avenue.

The vegetation fire, dubbed the Little Mountain Fire is currently at 25 acres with potential for a rapid rate of spread and threatening structures, according to a tweet from San Bernardino County Fire.

Fire crews are requesting the neighborhood north of Shandin Hills Golf Course to be evacuated. Ambulances have been requested to treat three burn patients, according to an SB County Fire tweet.

CHP Officer Brian Alvarez confirmed the 215 freeway is closed in both directions from SR-210 to Palm/Kendall until the smoke clears.

<http://www.vvng.com/breaking-215-freeway-closed-due-fast-moving-brush-fire/>

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## **Little Mountain fire in San Bernardino forces evacuations, freeway closures**

Ryan Hagen, Brian Whitehead, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: December 5, 2017 at 1:22 pm



A firefighter puts out a hotspot as the Little Mountain Fire burns near Blair Park in San Bernardino Tuesday afternoon December 5, 2017. Homes and apartments were briefly threatened near Blair Park. The fire has burned approximately 100 acres. (Will Lester-Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

For the second time in 22 years, Jose Sosa, 32, on Tuesday feared his San Bernardino home near Blair Park would burn.

“I could feel the heat of the flames,” he said. “I thought it was going to go up.”

The 100-acre blaze dubbed the Little Mountain fire left two people with critical burn injuries, closed the 215 Freeway and prompted evacuations in the hills south of Cal State San Bernardino.

The evacuation orders were lifted at 6:30 p.m., and 215 was open in both directions. The blaze remained zero percent contained. **San Bernardino County Fire** Department spokesman Eric Sherwin didn’t know whether any structures had been damaged, but he said a team was assessing the area and would have updated numbers Wednesday morning.

The blaze began at 12:28 p.m. behind the McDonald’s on University Parkway, Sherwin said. The cause was under investigation.

Throughout much of the day, the 100 firefighters battling the blaze were hampered by 30-mph wind gusts, according to the National Weather Service. The winds started to die down Tuesday evening.

“We’re trying to make as much progress as we can before the winds come back tonight,” Sherwin said. Firefighters were able to get into areas that had previously been too hot to enter, and use hoses and bulldozers to try to get the flames contained, he said.

The strongest winds of the week were expected to arrive Wednesday night through Thursday, the weather service warned. Most areas could see gusts of 25 to 35 mph, but wind-prone places like the nearby Cajon Pass could get isolated gusts 65 to 90 mph, according to a high wind warning.

### **Other fires, closures and evacuations**

When the fire broke out, evacuations were quickly ordered on a number of streets east of the 215 and north of the 210.

“Flames were imminently threatening some homes, while others were evacuated because of possible wind changes,” Sherman said.

The Little Mountain fire was followed by the Meyers fire a little ways to the north, sparked by a downed power line, and the Paper fire, caused when rolls of cardboard on a truck driving south on the 15 near Glen Helen Parkway caught fire and rolled into vegetation.

The firestorm forced closures of the 215 and 15 freeways, and several connector ramps. Students from Shandin Hills Middle School on Little Mountain Drive were relocated to Holcomb Elementary, and Shandin Hills’ afterschool program was canceled.

After-school coordinator DeAndre Walker said staff decided to leave the school. Parents who received a phone call about the evacuation must have been scared, he said.

He said the staff tried to keep the sixth- through eighth-grade students’ minds off fire – even though they could see the blaze as they left the campus.

Schools in Muscoy hit by smoke from the blaze kept students indoors.

All schools will resume normal operations Wednesday.

### **Neighborhood dangers**

The winds weren’t only hampering firefighters Tuesday; road signs along Little Mountain Drive wouldn’t stay up.

Residents who drove up to a barrier at Little Mountain Drive hoped for good news. “Are the Edgehill Apartments burned? I just need to know,” asked Brittany Marchand, who drove from work in Riverside to check.

Told they were evacuated but not damaged, she said, “Oh, thank God.” Steve Barcza, 19-year resident who was evacuated Tuesday, said he recognized the dangers of living in his neighborhood.

“If any of these trees catch on fire, the whole neighborhood goes up,” he said. “Any of these eaves catch fire, there goes the neighborhood.”

So, when Barcza, who’d just awoken from a nap, got word to evacuate, he did. He loaded his dog and two cats into his car and left to pick his 7-year-old son up from school.

Neighbor Betty Brownridge said she was watching coverage of the Ventura fire Tuesday afternoon, praying for those affected, when she heard a knock at her door.

She quickly packed some essentials, and she, her husband, two sons, her daughter and her grandson hopped in the family van.

“The smoke was so black, so thick — I thought I was going to pass out, it was so intense,” Brownridge said. “It’s the scariest thing, not knowing where you’ll be, what you’ll do, who you’ll call.”

“All I could do was cry because it was so overwhelming,” she said. “I’ve never felt that way.”

In good spirits while waiting for the all-clear to return home, Brownridge joked about her teenage son immediately grabbing his laptop before evacuating.

“Guess we know what’s important to him,” she said, laughing.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/05/mountain-fire-prompts-request-to-close-northbound-215-freeway-in-san-bernardino/>

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## 2 hurt in Little Mountain Fire in San Bernardino, Brown declares State of Emergency due to wildfires

Jenny Ung, The Desert Sun

Posted: December 5, 2017, 3:51 p.m.



A fire in the Little Mountain area of San Bernardino has burned 100 acres and forced officials to close the 215 Freeway and trigger evacuations. (Photo: San Bernardino County Fire District)

Two people were hospitalized in critical condition Tuesday night after suffering burns as a result of the Little Mountain Fire, San Bernardino fire officials said.

The blaze, which scorched 100 acres, closed part of Interstate 215 and initially prompted evacuations in San Bernardino, was 60 percent contained by 9 p.m. Tuesday.

A cause has not yet been determined and firefighters expected it would take as long as a few more days before reaching full containment, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Dan Wooters. Numerous evacuations were ordered for those living near the Little Mountain Fire and an evacuation center was opened Tuesday at Marshall Elementary School, 3288 N. G. St.

But, by 6:30 p.m., all evacuations were lifted and residents were allowed to return to their homes, according to San Bernardino police.

This wind-driven blaze began at about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at University Parkway and West Varsity Avenue near Interstate 215, according to Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The blaze threatened structures and closed the Palm/Kendall and University Street off ramps, officials said on Twitter.

Smoke and embers from the blaze also forced officials to close the 215 Freeway between the 210 Freeway and Interstate 15.

Shortly after the fire began, there were concerns that the blaze would destroy structures, but by late Tuesday the fire had only successfully burned several garages of an evacuated apartment complex. No residences were destroyed, officials added.

San Bernardino officials requested ambulances for two burn victims, according to tweets from emergency personnel working the fire. The wounded were rushed to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in critical condition. Exactly how the two people were wounded was not immediately available.

No firefighters were injured in the blaze.

The Little Mountain Fire was one of several blazes burning Tuesday in Southern California.

By 6 p.m., in Ventura County, the Thomas Fire had scorched more than 50,000 acres and destroyed at least 150 structures.

Strong Santa Ana winds, with gusts as fast as 60 mph, helped feed the fire, which spread overnight Monday from Santa Paula to Ventura.

It was first reported shortly before 6:30 p.m. Monday and spread so fast that scores of police and firefighters scrambled to evacuate thousands of residents in the fire's path.

In Los Angeles County, by Tuesday night, the Rye Fire had burned 5,000 acres and forced the evacuation of 1,300 homes. And the Creek Fire had scorched about 11,300 acres, destroyed 30 homes and reportedly forced the evacuations of more than 100,000 people.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said evacuation orders were affecting about 150,000 residents, but a Los Angeles Fire Department spokeswoman put the number at around 120,000.

The Creek Fire was reported shortly after 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The Rye Fire was reported at about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in Santa Clarita. It quickly spread and temporarily forced the closure of Interstate 5.

As of 7 p.m., officials said the Rye Fire was 5 percent contained.

The spread of the two blazes also interfered with numerous television shows that were being filmed in the affected areas Tuesday.

By 8:30 p.m., production of HBO's "Westworld" was halted.

HBO said in a statement that the sci-fi drama was filming its second season in an area near the Rye and Creek fires, but producers decided to shut down and avoid any danger to actors or crew members.

The statement said "Westworld" will resume filming when it is safe.

Filming on the CBS show "S.W.A.T." was also suspended.

Many shows shoot outdoor scenes in the outskirts north of the city, where two large blazes have choked the air with smoke and are threatening thousands of homes and buildings.

The Los Angeles Rams of the NFL, who hold workouts near the largest of Southern California's fires, canceled Wednesday's practice.

In response to the destruction caused by the Rye and Creek fires and the Thomas Fire, Gov. Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency for Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

City News Service, the Associated Press and the Ventura County Star contributed to this report.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2017/12/05/san-bernardino-fire-closes-freeway-forces-evacuations/925246001/>